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#1

(of 4)

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LEGEND OF THE SAGE



LEGEND OF THE SAGE™

issue 1 of 4

"Worlds within Worlds"

Story So far

Victoria Noble has never really fit in. In a world of hard realities and harder lessons, she's a dreamer and a romantic. Born and raised in New York City, Victoria far prefers to live in her books of fantasy and myth, never suspecting that her two worlds are about to collide dramatically.

Unbeknownst to all who live on earth, our world and another co-exist, separated by a gossamer-thin barrier. The other realm is a wild, primordial one, where magic and myth reign supreme.

From that mystic other realm, an evil wizard-king will threaten to destroy earth to fulfill a maniacal destiny. Only a chosen visionary, a legendary Sage, might stem the tide of destruction, but where, and who, is he? Victoria will too quickly find herself caught up in the epic quest.

It is a tale of belief and heroism and the place within us where those two ideals meet.

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Worlds within Worlds chapter 1

IT'S A CITY OF SEVEN
MILLION SOULS...
MORE OR LESS...

BUT IF YOU
COUNT ALL
THE MYRIAD, OVERLAPPING
WORLDS, THAT NUMBER MIGHT
BALLOON BY TRILLIONS...



...NOT THAT ANYONE
IN NEW YORK CITY
BELIEVES IN OTHER
WORLDS. HECK, THEY
BARELY ACKNOWLEDGE
PHILADELPHIA.

IN THE END, THAT
LACK OF BELIEF
WILL DOOM THE
CITY AND ITS WORLD...
BUT I'M GETTING
AHEAD OF MYSELF.





THAMP

THAMP

AH-HUNH-
AH-HUNH-AH-
HUNH...!

IT BEGAN ON THE
RUN AND PICKED UP
SPEED QUICKLY...

GODS...
THEY DON'T GIVE
UP...!

MOVE
IT YOU
LUMPS -- THE
SCRIBE IS
GETTING
AWAY!

IGNORE THE
HUMANS, HIGG --
THEY CAN'T
SEE US!

KREVE --!
BLAST 'EM!

TUUNGG
TUUNGG
TUUNGG

JADE
THE CROSS



"...AND WHATEVER
HE IS UP TO WON'T
CHANGE ANYTHING."

New York
Library Antiquarian
Collection

THOOOM

VICTORIA
NOBLE--!

WH-
WHA --?!

...RETURN...
THIS...
...IT'S...
YOURS!

WHO ARE --
OHH --!

I AM --
UNNN --

HE'S
DEAD...?!

SECURITY --?!
SOMEONE --? I'VE
GOT A DEAD MAN
HERE!



HE'S IN
HERE...

YES.
LEAD ON, MS.
NOBLE.



HE IS... WHERE,
EXACTLY...?

I...
I...
HE WAS
RIGHT THERE --
I SWEAR! DEAD!



DEAD MEN DO
NOT WANDER OFF,
VICTORIA. ARE YOU
SURE?

YES.
I... THINK
SO...

OR PERHAPS
YOU'VE CONFUSED
REALITY AND
YOUR... BOOKS --?





HE WAS
HERE. HE LEFT
THIS BOOK...

PERHAPS -- BUT
THAT PROVES NOTHING
BEYOND HIDEOUS
TASTE.

FORGET
ABOUT THIS...
PERSON, VICTORIA
AND GET BACK
TO WORK.



AND GET RID OF THAT... THING,
BEFORE IT INFECTS OUR
VALUABLE BOOKS
WITH **MILDEW**.

BUT...
ADRIAN...



AND THERE
GOES MY **PRINCE**
CHARMING...

...CAN I
PICK 'EM, OR
WHAT?



NOTUS
IGNOTUS IS LATIN
FOR **KNOWN**
UNKNOWN --
WHICH SUMS UP
MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH ADRIAN,
FOR SURE.

THE **REST**
OF THIS IS **NOT**
LATIN, THOUGH --
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT LANGUAGE
THIS IS...

WHAT --?!
THAT'S...





...ME --?!



THERE'S A PICTURE OF ME IN THIS BOOK...?



YAAAAA!



UNNN --?

COME EVENING, NEW
YORK GOT EVEN UGLIER.

RAIN JUST SHORT OF A
MONSOON BLASTED
IN ON A WIND AS
SHARP AS A RAZOR.

...EVERYTHING
SEEMS LESS
DISTINCT NOW. *MORE*
DAYDREAM THAN
MEMORY...

...BUT
IT *DID*
HAPPEN.

DIDN'T
IT...?

OR
HAS MY GRIP
ON *REALITY*
SLIPPED?







SHE
ESCAPES --!

AAAAH?!



VIC --? IT'S
ME, TIM... YOUR
BROTHER --?

TIM...
THANK GOD.
THEY'RE
CHASING
ME!

WHO --?



THE
MONSTERS...
THEY'RE --
-- GONE?!

THERE'S
NO ONE,
VIC...



MONSTERS...?

NEVER.
MIND.

I HEARD
ABOUT YOUR
ADVENTURE THIS
AFTERNOON, VIC --
THAT'S WHY I'M
HERE. COME
ON...



...WE'RE
GONNA
GO SEE
DAD.

THEY SAY THAT TIMES
SQUARE USED TO BE
A HELLHOLE OF DIME-A-
BEER DIVES AND SEEDY
SEX MERCHANTS...

SHRIIIIIIIII

RUMZZZZZZZZ

UNTIL THEY CLEANED IT UP AND ERASED EVERY
LAST TRACE OF CHARACTER THE PLACE HAD.

IT WAS INTO THIS NEW,
SQUEAKY-CLEAN,
HELLHOLE THAT FINN
AND I STEPPED...

WE **MADE** IT!
WE'RE ON EARTH,
BALLY-
MAR--!

UGGGGH--
MADE ME
TRIP-SICK! YOU
SURE YOU GOT
THIS **MAGE** GIG
DOWN--?

YEESH,
FINN--! THIS
PLACE IS
WEIRDER THAN
WE HEARD!

TOUGH
IT UP, BALLY,
WE'VE A
MISSION
HERE...

WE NEED TO
KNOW THAT GILBY
GOT THE BOOK
ACROSS.

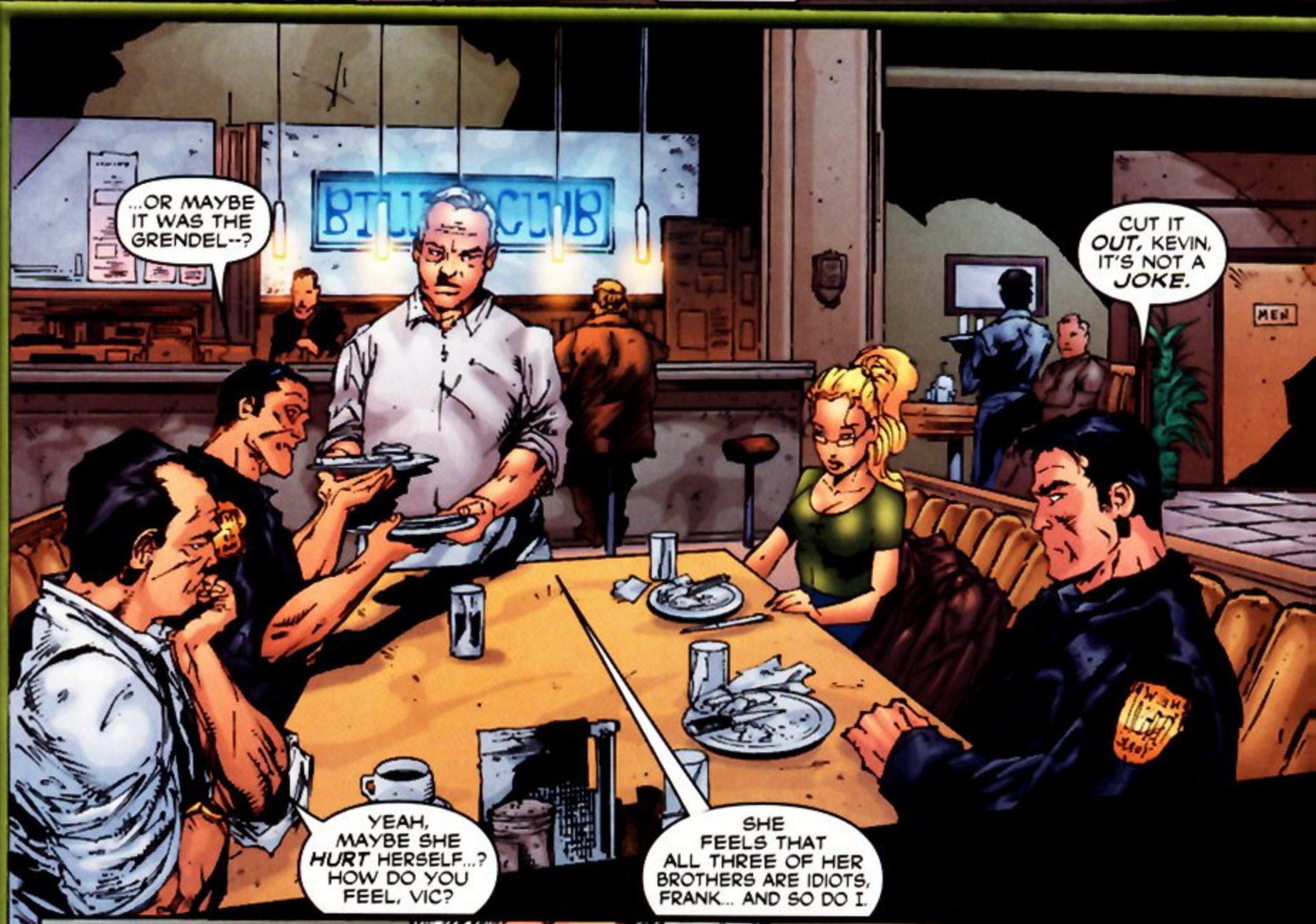
IF MY BIG
BROTHER SAID
HE'D GET IT TO
HER, HE DID!

YES...
BUT IF **THEY**
WERE ON
HIS TAIL...

HE
KNEW THE
RISKS.
YOU GO
CHECK WITH THE
UNDERGROUND,
I'LL LOOK FOR
THE GIRL...



WEIRD CREATURES, VIC...?
LEM'ME GUESS, DRAGONS? HOBBITS...?



...OR MAYBE IT WAS THE GRENDDEL--?

CUT IT OUT, KEVIN, IT'S NOT A JOKE.

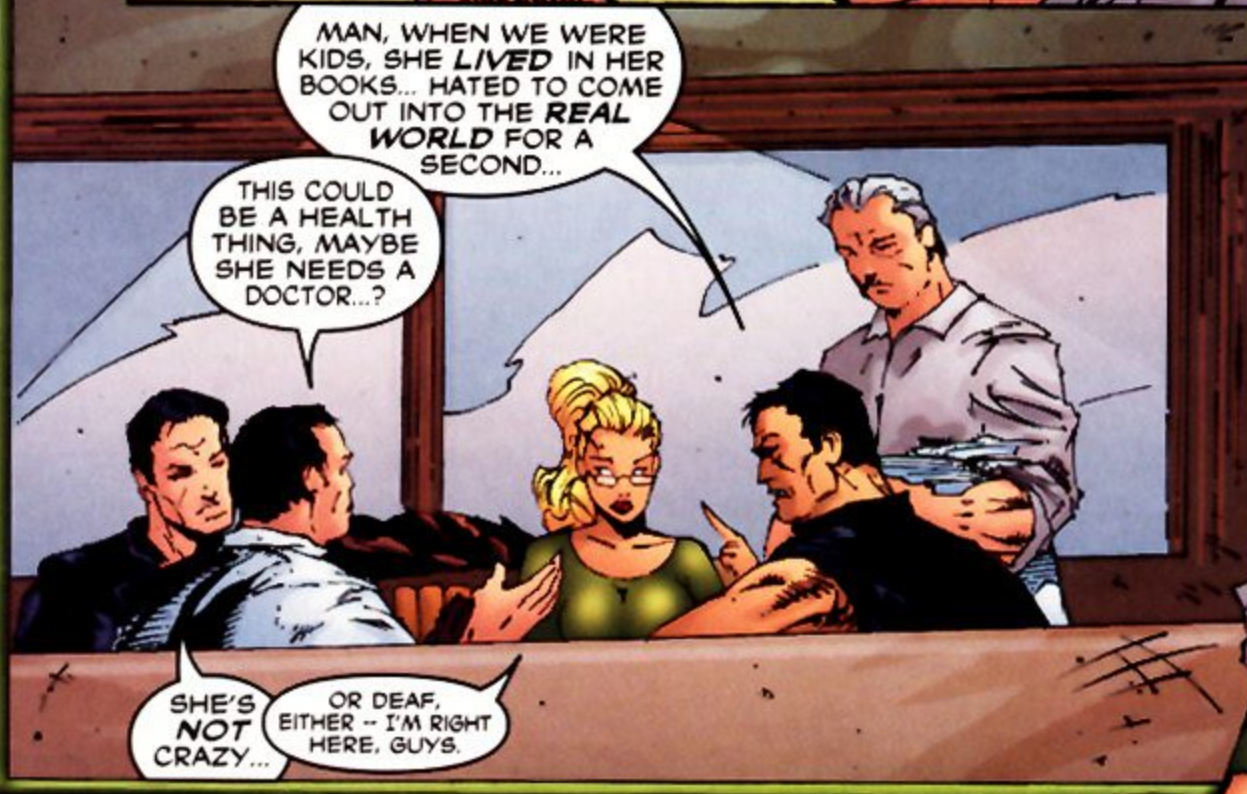
YEAH, MAYBE SHE HURT HERSELF...? HOW DO YOU FEEL, VIC?

SHE FEELS THAT ALL THREE OF HER BROTHERS ARE IDIOTS, FRANK... AND SO DO I.



GIRL HAD HERSELF A SCARE IS ALL -- AND HER IMAGINATION RAN AWAY WITH HER.

OR SHE RAN AWAY WITH IT.



MAN, WHEN WE WERE KIDS, SHE *LIVED* IN HER BOOKS... HATED TO COME OUT INTO THE *REAL* WORLD FOR A SECOND...

THIS COULD BE A HEALTH THING, MAYBE SHE NEEDS A DOCTOR...?

SHE'S NOT CRAZY...

OR DEAF, EITHER -- I'M RIGHT HERE, GUYS.



ENOUGH TALK. MY LITTLE GIRL HAD A BAD DAY AND GOT SHOOK UP -- LET HER BE NOW... OKAY?

DAD...

AM I WRONG, SWEETHEART? IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE THAT A DEAD GUY VANISHED FROM THE LIBRARY?

OR THAT YOU WERE CHASED BY MONSTERS?

HMMM--?

WHAT'S WITH THE BIG LOAD, SWEET-HEART?

...
JUST... SOME WORK I HAVE TO DEAL WITH. GOODNIGHT ALL.

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT...
...I JUST GOT... CAUGHT UP, I GUESS. I'LL BE FINE...

I AM EXHAUSTED, THOUGH -- I'M GOING TO HEAD HOME.

NEED A RIDE...?

IT'S A BLOCK. I CAN MAKE IT, THANKS.

NOW, YOU LUGS KNOW YOUR SISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN... SENSITIVE... DREAMY.

SHE NEEDS US MORE THAN EVER -- AND IT'S YOUR JOB TO KEEP HER SAFE. GOT IT?



SOME NEW YORKERS
LIKE TO FANCY THEM-
SELVES AS **BADDER**
THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
I'M TOLD.

TRUST ME, YOU DON'T
KNOW **BAD** UNTIL YOU'VE
BEEN TO **ARMACH** -- THE
REALM OF THE DESPOT,
KING MAGOS...

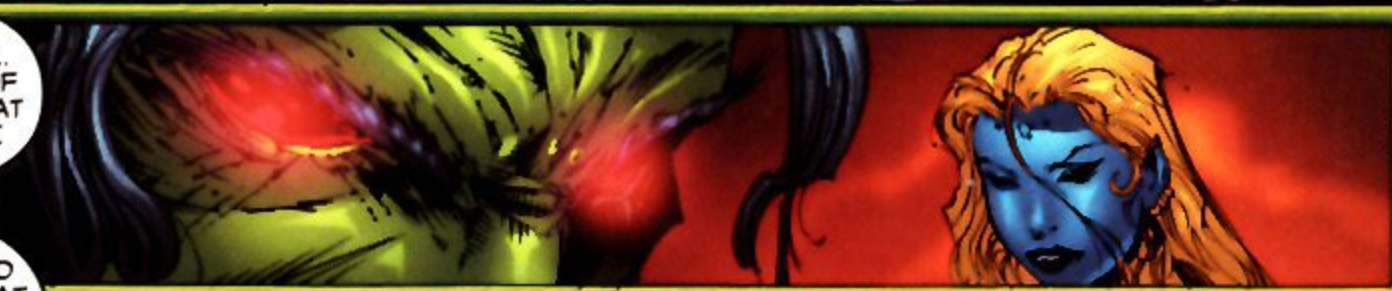


SO... THE
GNOMISH TRAITOR
GILBY IS DEAD, BUT
HE SUCCEEDED IN
DELIVERING THE
TOME?

UM... YES,
MAJESTY...
HE DELIVERED
IT TO THE
FEMALE.

AND,
SHE...?

I REGRET THAT
SHE YET LIVES,
LORD MAGOS...
A THOUSAND
PARDONS...



FINISH
IT, AND NO
PARDONS WILL BE
NECESSARY.

I AM **NOT** A
HEARTLESS TYRANT...
IN FACT IT IS OUT OF
KINGLY LARGESSE THAT
I SEEK ALL THAT I
SEEK...



IT IS, AFTER
ALL, FOR THE GOOD
OF ALL **ARMACH** THAT
I EXIST! AS MY
STRATEGY UNFOLDS,
OUR BORDERS WILL
EXPAND.

THE WEALTH
AND WELFARE OF
ALL MY SUBJECTS
INCREASE!



YOUR MERCY IS GREAT,
OH KING, BUT MERCY
WITHOUT CONTEXT OF ITS
OPPOSITE MEANS
LITTLE.

CAERRA--?



INDEED, MY
DEAR. GUARDS,
EXECUTE
FANULF.

MIGHT THESE
SOLDIERS TRY EVEN
HARDER IF THEY KNEW
SOME... **MOTIVATION**?



IT IS A WISE LEADER WHO CAN RECOGNIZE SOMEONE ELSE'S GOOD IDEA.

THANK YOU, CAERRA.

NOOOOOO!

THE REST OF YOU REMEMBER FANULF'S EXAMPLE. GET THE GIRL, GET THE BOOK. GO.

YOUR LIEGE, SOLDIERS FROM THE REBEL LANDS HAVE RETURNED... WITH A PRIZE...!

INDEED, RAFF--?



BR
RA
H
H
R
R
R!

MAY I PRESENT, TULAN, PRINCE OF THE OUTER ISLANDS... **DEPOSED** RULER OF ARMACH.

OH, THIS IS GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY AFTER ALL!

HELLO, OLD ENEMY. IT SEEMS YOUR **RESISTANCE** HAS COME TO AN END...

Never!
The rebellion will go on -- someone will succeed in destroying you...
Before you destroy us all!



ALAS, YOU'LL NEVER SEE IT, KITTEN.
NOW...
HOW WILL WE TORTURE YOU--?

RAAOOOO

WAS THAT
THUNDER, OR
THE CRY OF
A WOUNDED
BEAST?
AND WHY
AM I SO
JUMPY?

MAYBE
BECAUSE I'M SOME-
HOW STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND
THIS BOOK...?

SOME-
THING ABOUT A
WORLD OF MYTH
AND MAGIC ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF A...
CURTAIN FROM
EARTH--?

AND A
COSMIC THREAT
THAT WILL DESTROY
A **UNIVERSE** --?! I
CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN
THAT RIGHT...

...BECAUSE IT'S
ALL CRAZY AND
IMPOSSIBLE!



AH...
THIS IS THE
PLACE.



WHAT...?

AH--!



DON'T BE
AFRAID...

YOU'RE
NOT REAL,
WHAT'S TO
BE AFRAID
OF?

I'M...
SORRY--?

I'M GIVEN
TO FLIGHTS OF
FANCY, I'M TOLD...
TO CHILDISH
GULLIBILITY.

AS OF
THIS **SECOND**,
I'M GIVING ALL
THAT **UP**. I DON'T
BELIEVE IN YOU,
GO AWAY.

WE'LL
HAVE TO
AGREE TO
DISAGREE-- I
THINK I'M VERY
REAL.



AS IS
MY MISSION
HERE,
VICTORIA.

A VERY
POLITE AND
PERSONABLE
HALLUCINATION,
I'LL GIVE YOU
THAT.



MY NAME
IS BALLYMAR,
YOU CAN CALL
ME BALLY. I'M
HERE TO HELP
YOU.

THE
SOONER YOU
ACCEPT THAT
THIS IS REAL,
THE BETTER
WE'LL ALL
BE.



I CAN'T
DO THAT...MY
SANITY'S TOO
PRECIOUS
TO ME.
AND, UM,
YOU KEEP
EXCALIBUR,
OKAY?

IT'S
CALLED
SKATHA, AND
IT IS FATED
FOR NONE
BUT YOU.



I'M A
LIBRARIAN.
I'D BE ARRESTED
FOR CARRYING
THAT ON THE
SUBWAY.

YES,
BUT YOU
ARE ALSO A
WARRIOR OF
DESTINY.



THAT'S
RIDICUL--
WHAT -- ?!

SKROOOOM

MAKE UP
YOUR MIND,
GIRL--ONLY A
WARRIOR WILL
SURVIVE
THIS...!

NO...
WAY...!

THIS ISN'T
HAPPENING--!

TELL
THEM.

YAAAAAAAH!

TO BE CONTINUED!

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#2 (OF 4)

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THE Impending Chaos! #46

Your monthly News Source on all things Chaos! - JULY 2001

From the Crypt

It's self-assessment time. The question I am asking myself is: how is the quality of our comics post-Armageddon? Purgatori: Love Bites sucked. To me it was an all-time low both in story and art. We blew it. And the other stories? I'd appraise most of the year 2000 and first quarter 2001 as being sucky to average. We've had a few great ones, and I believe our licensed books (except the Mummy) have been quite good.

All that said, I want you to understand that I accept full responsibility for the books falling far below your expectations. I also accept that you guys may feel betrayed or we let you down or that we suck. I accept all of that. At the end of the day though, please understand we never did any of this on purpose or to hurt you. A way to think about this is like when your favorite football team who won last year, then had a rotten season the next.

So where does this leave us? Well, since we knew the books could stand improvement (but were already deep into production), I've made some changes. I've brought on new blood in the writing and art department like Joshua Dysart on Purgatori and Peter David on Vandalia. I stand by all the "new visions" titles. We've put a lot of work into all of them. That includes Jade, LD Alive, Sage, Purg: Hunted & Darkest Hour and Chastity: Shattered. - and beyond into the fall including Lady Death: Last Rites (written by new Lady Death writer John Ostrander, writer of my favorite series of the 90's The Spectre) and Dark Alliance.

Here is the future of the stories - much more focus, more driven, more suspenseful, more original, more inside the existing continuity. I am designing the master storyline for the next several years. I will return the characters to their essence. I can't change what other writers or artists have done, but I can clean it up moving forward. We will measure and improve the quality of the books (writing, pencils, inks, colors). We will check & maintain the continuity of the books. Improve the writing dramatically.

In closing, I want you all to know I respect and admire your passion for Chaos! If you have experienced that we have disappointed or betrayed you, I apologize to you for that.

Though we are human and make mistakes (damn, I wish we were perfect), we will strive to improve and come back stronger than ever. Check our history, we tend to do that.

I welcome your feedback. Contact me at:
service@chaoscomics.com.

Sworn,



-Brian Pulido

EVIL ERNIE RETURNS!

All right, all right - while Brian planned for Evil Ernie to stay dead after he nuked out of this world at the end of War of the Dead, he's since learned that you just can't keep a good...uh, bad character down, and as a result, Evil Ernie will return to the Chaos! universe this October.

"In a word, it is because of fan demand," Pulido said. "I want to acknowledge that I said I would never bring back Evil Ernie and now here I am doing it. I nuked Evil Ernie and meant to keep him that way. I didn't want to bring him back the way other comic companies bring back dead characters, but something happened along the way."

As for the return itself? "I am out to write the most violent tale of my career," Pulido said. "If I am going to bring Evil Ernie back, I plan to do it in style. I have a long-standing reputation for writing over the top psychotic stories and I will throw my heart and soul in this one."

Appropriately enough, Evil Ernie Returns #1 is scheduled to ship on October 31st.

LADY DEATH GETS LAST RITES

So Lady Death is now one of the living, right? Maybe.

Coming in September, we'll be kicking off the final Lady Death mini-series of 2001, the four-part Lady Death: Last Rites. The mini-series will be the culmination of the year's storylines, and will ultimately answer the question: will Hope remain among the living, or will she return to her former role of the cold, remote goddess of Death that we've all

come to know and love. But wait - is it an "either or" question, or are there other possibilities?

Lady Death: Last Rites will also showcase some surprising new developments in Lady Death's powers - including some decidedly new supernatural powers that allow her to talk to the dead while in her human form, and to see supernatural presences. Is she gearing up for a Fox special of her own, or is something more sinister at work here? Make plans to join us in September to find out, Fiends!

EVIL ERNIE'S ASHCAN

So now you've heard the news - Evil Ernie is returning in October. Since we love, love, love to tease, keep an eye out for the Evil Ernie Returns ashcan coming in September. Fiends will be able to see a sneak peek of Jerry Becks' art, as well as get a hint of just what will be coming in the return of comics' #1 teen psychopath!

JOSHUA DYSART ON BAD KITTY: RELOADED

She's back in September! Thanks to wild support from Fiends worldwide, Bad Kitty will return in an all new, three-issue limited series with Joshua (Purgatori: The Hunted, Violent Messiahs) Dysart at the helm!

This time, Cat's in New York and on the run from the FBI, but she's not alone. Making an appearance straight out of her Shattered mini-series, Chastity shows up in the Big Apple as well, continuing her new role in the Chaos! Universe.

We caught up with Dysart to get his take on Kitty: "I see her as a very normal girl with this killing engine at the heart of her," Joshua said. "She

has an emotional switch and when that switch is clicked, you should probably jump the hell back because she's going to become an intensely violent thing. She's alone, betrayed, alienated, wanted by the FBI and heartbroken."

Joshua also said to expect a slight change in how she was cast for the first mini-series: "I'm going to put her in a maternal role. I'm also going to introduce something as my big final metaphor that I think people are going to dig...Nocturnes Labyrinths! That storytelling device will allow us to actually get a lot of Adriano Batista's imagery from the covers of the first series into the actual interior of the comic. I'm not going to tell you anymore about that though. I'm very excited."

CHAOS GOODS IN SEPTEMBER!

Looking for kick-ass Chaos! goodies in September? Keep your eyeballs peeled for the Lady Death Orb from Diamond Select and Eternal Toys, the Dark Alliance Series I repaints, and the Dark Alliance Series II Anti-paints, featuring Cremator, Lady Death, Vandalia, and Oblivia!

MUSEUM KITTY AND CLOWNZ COMING

In September, you'll be able to get your mitts on two Museum Editions of hot Chaos books: Bad Kitty #1 and ICP: Upz and Downz of the Wicked Clownz. You know what these babies are - extremely high quality, killer-cool editions of recent and special comics - superior materials meet comics to produce some of the most amazing works of contemporary art you've ever seen. Working together with Jay Co., we're slowly releasing these killer cool collectible editions of some of Chaos!' hottest titles.

The Chaos! Museum runs will be strictly limited to 25 copies, each embossed and sealed, the perfect item for true Chaos! collectors.

CGC CHECKS OUT LADY DEATH

Also in September, we're proud to offer CGC graded editions of Lady Death: Between Heaven and Hell #1: The Velvet Edition. These books will be officially graded by CGC and slabbed in a protective case. It's a cool way to know what you got, and display a jewel in your Chaos! collection.

WORK FOR CHAOS!

Ever dreamed of working for Chaos? Seeing your pencils, inks, or colors grace the cover of the latest, greatest Lady Death, Purgatori, or Chastity epic? Now's your chance!

We've kicked off the Chaos! Global Talent Search 2001, and we want to see your best! We're looking for pencils, inkers, colorists, and cover artists for a slew of upcoming projects, and here's the skinny: send reduced (8 1/2" x 11") copies of your work, make sure your contact information is on the back of each page.

Check the official Chaos! Comics website at www.chaoscomics.com for further information. You know what kind of stuff we do. Show us that! Keep in mind that what you send in will not be returned. Make sure your contact info is clearly marked, and if we like your stuff, we will contact you. How will you know if we want you to work for us? We will contact you. If we don't call, then we wish you well and better luck next time.

Chaos! Checklist

July 2001

- Lady Death: Medieval Witchblade #1 \$3.50
- Lady Death: Medieval Witchblade #1 Prem. Ed. \$9.99
- Lady Death: Medieval Witchblade #1 Super Prem. Ed. \$20.00
- Legend of the Sage #1 \$2.99
- Legend of the Sage #1 Prem. Ed. \$9.99
- Chaos! Presents: Jade #4 \$2.99
- Chaos! Presents: Jade #4 Variant Cover \$7.50
- Lady Death: Alive #4 \$2.99
- Lady Death: Alive #4 Variant Cover \$7.50
- Purgatori: The Hunted #2 \$2.99
- Purgatori: The Hunted #2 Variant Cover \$7.50
- Chastity: Shattered #3 \$2.99
- Lady Death: Tribulation #1 Chromium Signed Ed. \$21.00
- ICP: The Pendulum #10 \$5.99
- Chastity Beach Towel \$40.00
- Lady Death: Alive #1 Ashcan \$6.00
- Chastity: Shattered #1 Ashcan \$6.00
- Chaos! Presents: Jade #1 Ashcan \$6.00
- Bad Kitty #1 Script \$4.99
- Bad Kitty #1 Script Prem. Ed. \$20.00
- Jade First Shot Action Figure \$19.95
- Lucifer First Shot Action Figure \$19.95
- Chastity First Shot Action Figure \$19.95

August 2001

- Lady Death: Bad Kitty #1 \$2.99
- Lady Death: Bad Kitty #1 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Vandalia II #1 \$2.99
- Vandalia II #1 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Purgatori: Darkest Hour #1 \$2.99
- Purgatori: Darkest Hour #1 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Legend of the Sage #2 \$2.99
- Legend of the Sage #2 Variant Edition \$7.50
- Lady Death's Black Book #1 \$9.99
- Lady Death's Black Book #1 Premium Edition \$14.99
- The Mummy: Valley of the Gods #1 Ashcan \$6.00
- Purgatori: The Hunted #1 Ashcan \$6.00
- Purgatori: #1.2 Chromium Signed Edition \$21.00
- Lady Death: The Crucible #1 Script \$4.99
- Lady Death: The Crucible #1 Script Premium Edition \$20.00

September 2001

- Lady Death: Last Rites #1 \$2.99
- Lady Death: Last Rites #1 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Bad Kitty: Reloaded #1 \$2.99
- Bad Kitty: Reloaded #1 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Purgatori: Darkest Hour #2 \$2.99
- Purgatori: Darkest Hour #2 Premium Edition \$9.99
- Legend of the Sage #3 \$2.99
- Legend of the Sage #3 Variant Edition \$7.50
- ICP: Pendulum #11 \$6.50
- Evil Ernie Returns Ashcan \$6.00
- Chastity #1.2 Chromium Signed Edition \$21.00
- Evil Ernie: Youth Gone Wild Full Script \$25.00
- Evil Ernie: Youth Gone Wild Full Script Premium Edition \$35.00
- Lady Death: Last Rites #1 Poster \$7.99
- Purgatori First Shot Action Figure \$19.99

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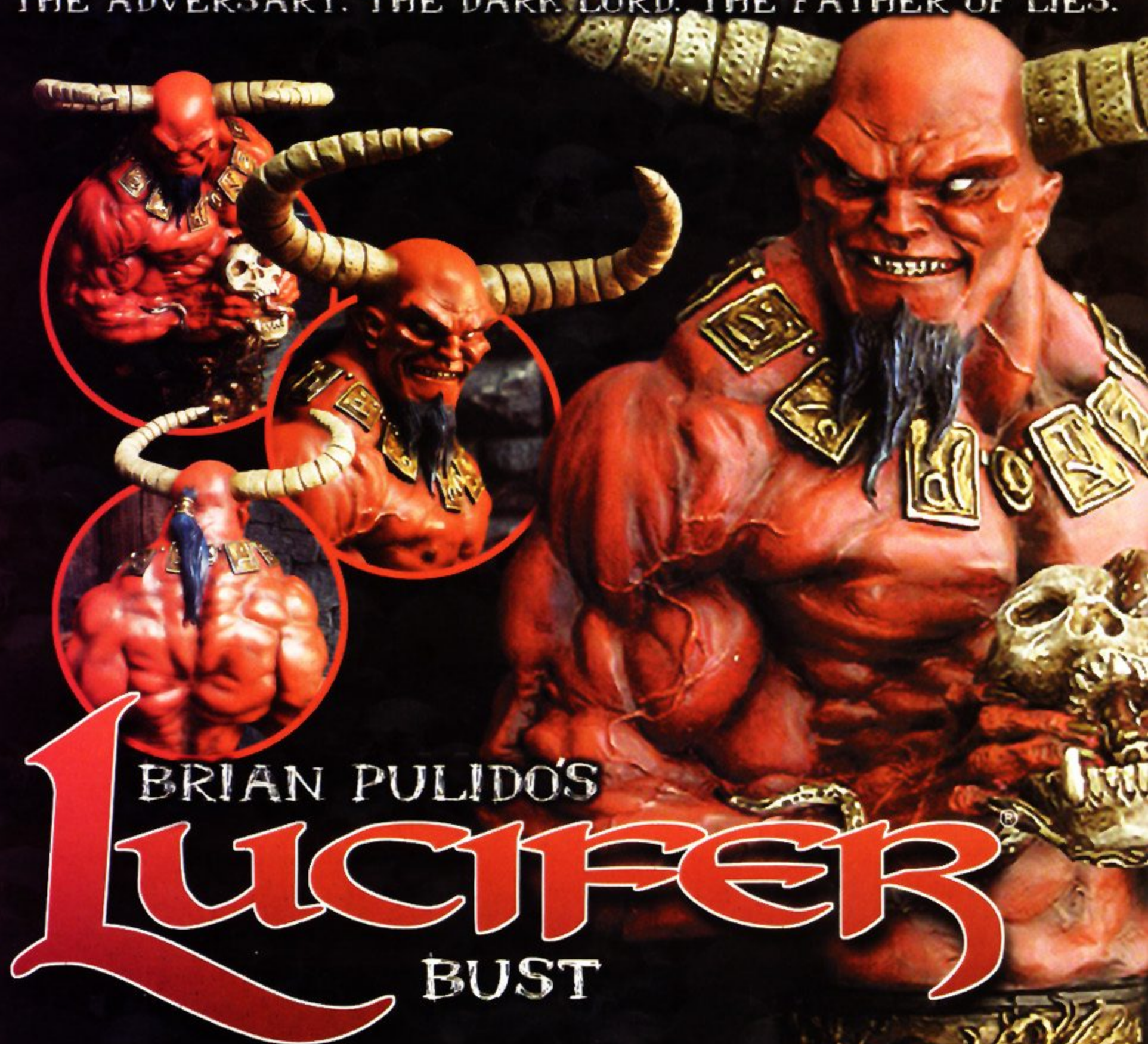
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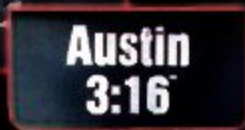
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